

EMERITUS & ANNUITANT NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the SIUC Emeritus and Annuitant Association

Volume 2010, Number 1

April 2010

Spring General Membership and Emeritus Faculty Organization meetings scheduled for April 30

The spring General Membership Meeting will be held on Friday, April 30, at the Dunn-Richmond Center. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. with Dr. Paul Sarvelo as the featured speaker. Prior to the EAA General Membership meeting, the Emeritus Faculty Organization will meet at 8 a.m., with Dr. Dale Ritzel as guest speaker. All current and future annuitants are invited to attend this double header speaker line up for a morning of informative news about SIUC's academic health and learn some tips on driving as seniors.

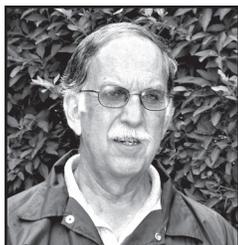
Dr. Sarvelo, Vice President for Academic Affairs, will give an update on academic affairs in the SIUC system. He was promoted to his current position on January 1, 2009, and is responsible for coordinating the University's academic program requests with the Illinois Board of Higher Education; organizing the University's state and federal initiatives package; preparing University-wide strategic planning reports; providing oversight for University task forces; and serving on University and statewide committees. Dr. Sarvelo received his A.B. in psychology (1981), his M.S. in educational psychology (1983), and his Ph.D. in health education (1984) from the University of Michigan. He has been a professor at SIUC since 1986 and served the University as Dean of the College of Applied Sciences and Arts (2002-2008). Prior to his appointment as Dean, Dr. Sarvelo served as Chair of the Department of Health Care Professions and as Director of the Center for Rural Health and Social Service Development. Dr. Sarvelo is the author of several articles on the subject of health care, particularly rural health care problems. He is a Professor of Health Care Management, Professor of Health Education, and Clinical Professor of



Paul Sarvelo

Family and Community Medicine.

Dr. Dale Ritzel, who will speak on Seniors and Driving, is Professor Emeritus, Health Education and Director Emeritus, Safety Center at SIUC. He retired in 2006 after teaching 41 years at SIUC. He still teaches 2-4 safety and traffic safety Web based courses at SIUC each semester. He is current President of the Illinois High School and College Driver Education Association. This summer Ritzel will be receiving the highest traffic safety award in the United States, the Richard Kaywood Award from the American Driver and Traffic Safety Education. He continues to take students on a travel/study course to Germany each May and to conduct research in Spain and Germany.



Dale Ritzel

A luncheon will be served following the General Membership Meeting. Complete the flyer included in this newsletter to make your reservation.

Campus remembers former Chancellor John C. Guyon



John Guyon

Former SIUC Chancellor John Guyon died at his home on March 17, 2010, at the age of 78. After having served as chair of the Chemistry Departments of Memphis State University and the University of Missouri, John came to SIUC in 1974 as professor of Chemistry and Dean of the College of Science. He later served as Associate Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, and he served as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research before being appointed President in 1987. He served in that office (president/chancellor) until 1996, the longest serving leader of SIUC since Delyte Morris. University enrolment reached all-time highs during his tenure as chancellor. He has been praised for his work with minorities and women including hiring

African Americans and women into senior administrative positions at the University. The newly renovated Morris Library's auditorium was dedicated in John Guyon's name in 2009.

Chancellor Sam Goldman extended the following condolences to the Guyon family, friends, and colleagues.

John's commitment to improving our University and our region spanned decades. He guided the University with a steady hand, overseeing growth in enrollment as well as expansion of the campus physically. In all of his roles here, he always was a champion for students, mentoring, guiding and advocating so that they could achieve academic and career success. We all benefited from his passion for helping improve the lives of others.

INSIDE THE COVERS

Articles

Backpacks/Scholarships.....	2
Legislative.....	3
McLeod Summer Theater.....	5
Parting Shot.....	7

Features

President's Message.....	2
Chapter Happenings.....	4
Calendar of Events.....	4
Feature - Marching Salukis.....	6 & 7
Board of Directors.....	8
Membership Matters.....	8

Visit us on the Web at our new address!
<http://eaa.siuc.edu/>



Robert Radtke

Greetings,

The news from Springfield continues to be bleak. There doesn't seem to be anyone with a clear, workable (i.e., passable) idea of how to work our way out of the budget morass the state confronts. Last fall we were told to wait until after the primaries when legislators knew what election battles they would be facing. Then they would be willing to tackle the tough fiscal questions. Now we are told to wait until after this fall's elections before we can expect to see any significant movement on these issues. Wait! Wait! Wait! That's what we have been told for years, and the mess and the deficit continue to grow worse. I, for one, am getting a little tired of waiting, and would like to see some serious proposals presented, debated, and voted up or down.

The fiscal crisis is having a serious negative impact on the wide variety of services for which the state is responsible, from prisons and police; family, child and social service agencies; primary, secondary, and higher education; and the state public employee pensions systems. The latter, of course, is of primary concern to me in this message. Note, however, the many current news reports about agency staff reductions and agency closings, teacher and program reductions in public schools, and the talk of hiring freezes, furloughs, and substantial tuition increase in higher education.

Now to the pension problem. The commitments Illinois has made to provide retirement security to state employees pose a great financial challenge. Estimates are that at the end of this fiscal year the five state retirement systems will need approximately \$131 billion to cover benefits already earned, with only \$46 billion in expected assets to cover this obligation. The other \$85 billion represents the unfunded liability. How much is that? Well, it's roughly three times greater than last year's total state receipts; it represents approximately \$6,600 for every Illinois citizen; and is eight times greater than the comparable figure 20 years ago when the unfunded liability was \$10 billion in fiscal 1990. All this occurred because, for decades, governors and legislators from both political parties chose to spend state revenues on other priorities rather than put enough away to pay for the pension benefits workers had earned. Pension borrowing and pension holidays, coupled with the fact that money not put into the system did not earn any compounded interest over the years, and the recent Wall Street collapse, have produced the current unfunded pension liability.

So, what to do now? A number of proposals have been floated many of which include a two tier pension system – one for current retirees and one for new hires (and possibly current employees). Current retirees' pensions would not be affected, but health care benefits and state tax benefits almost surely will. Some common features shared by two-tier proposals: for new hires normal retirement age would be 67 (not 65), the annual rate of earning benefits would be 2% of final average salary (not 2.2%), averaging final salary over 8 years (not 4), and capping the final average at some amount (either the current social security maximum or the governor's salary), and limiting the annual COLA to 3% or one half of the Consumer Price Index, whichever is less. However, adding a second tier of benefits would produce few immediate savings since that would apply only to new hires, and such a system could produce other undesirable consequences such as difficulties in recruitment, retention, and morale of new employees who see their benefits substantially lower than the person sitting next to them.

What is the alternative? It seems obvious – raise state revenues. The pension system should not be seen as the scapegoat for an outdated and inadequate revenue structure. The state's failure to adequately fund pensions can be traced to one simple cause. A fiscal system that, for decades, failed to provide for maintaining service levels and cover the states required contributions to the pension systems. One proposal would raise state income tax rates, broaden the sales tax to include customer services, and give tax relief to low-income tax payers. This measure passed the Senate last May, but was stalled in the house. Governor Quinn has been calling for a tax increase. What are the chances of passing such a tax increase in an election year? The SUAA supports it on your behalf.

So, cut benefits? Raise taxes? Hammer out a compromise with some of each? The only sure thing is that the longer the legislature and the governor wait, the tougher their decisions and the measures they will have to adopt will be.

Be assured that SUAA will be working hard to insure that your interests are represented and protected. Renew your membership. Sign up for direct dues deduction. Every month we get a list from SUAA of members who have failed to renew. Direct dues deductions would handle that problem. Help us recruit new members.

Contacts for local state legislators

Senators:

David Luechtefeld (R)
Senator 58th District
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Tele: (217) 782-8137 Springfield
Tele: (618) 243-9014 Okawville

Gary Forby (D)
Senator 59th District
417 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706
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Tele: (618) 439-2504 Benton

Representatives:

Mike Bost (R) 115th District
202-N Stratton Ofc Building
Springfield, IL 62706
Tele: (217) 782-0387 Springfield
Tele: (618) 457-5787 Carbondale

John E. Bradley (D) 117th District
265-S Stratton Ofc Building
Springfield, IL 62706
Tele: (217) 782-1051 Springfield
Tele: (618) 997-9697 Marion

How backpacks provide scholarships

Many of our members work at the University Book Store at the start of the fall and spring semester in a volunteer program that has often been referred to as the 'Greeters Program' that has been successfully overseen by Bruce Appleby for many years. Duties include securing backpacks and other items as students enter the store. In addition, we monitor entrances and exits to some extent so that security is enhanced to some degree in this busy period. As we go about these tasks, opportunities to meet students abound. The fall is especially interesting as many new arrivals to campus are trying to find out where things are, how things get done at SIUC, making adjustments to being away from home, family and friends, curious about our maroon shirts and vests with the SUAA logo, and learning to adjust to new measures of freedom for many. The differences between fall and

SEE Backpacks to Scholarships/Page 5

Suggestions for Illinois' Budget Crisis: Two slightly different views

A new report from the **Pew Center** rates Illinois' pension system as a cause for "**serious concern**". Illinois ranks last in the country in what it has set aside to fund pensions. "Illinois' pension liabilities grew 110 percent between 1999 and 2008, outpacing assets, which grew only 56 percent in that period."



We know that we are in a financial crisis! As Illinois' elected officials grind away this spring, we should pay attention and let our voices be heard in Springfield and in our communities.

The **State University Annuitant Association** has recommended a state debt reduction plan that includes

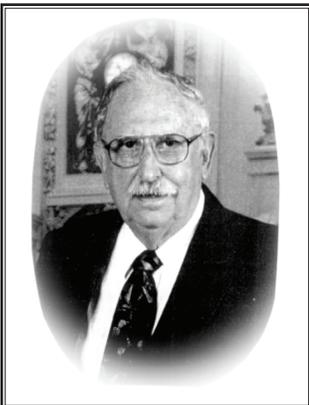
- A temporary income tax increase at percentages determined by the Governor and legislative leaders.
- The revenues derived from this increase should be used solely for reducing Illinois' debt.
- The increased tax would sunset in two years.
- During the two-year period, no statutory changes shall be made to any of the State's public pension systems, other than as may be required for technical, non-substantive matters.
- Spending should be held at the level enacted in 2009 for FY 2010.
- No State official may cause any increase in the State debt during the two-year period except for what may be necessary for short-term borrowing.

Although requesting a tax increase, **Illinois' Civic Federation**, a government watch dog, has recommended no tax increases until the pension system has been reformed and spending cuts put in place. Many of their recommendations would have a negative effect on state retirees and current and future state employees. Their plan includes:

- Pension reforms must include additional employee contributions and reduced benefits for new State employees.
- Employee contributions to the retirement systems and the State's group health insurance plan must be increased.
- The State should repeal the income tax exemption for federally taxed portions of retirement and Social Security income.
- Spending should be rolled back to FY2007 levels, with the exception of Medicaid and General State Aid to elementary and secondary education.
- The state income tax rate should be increased from 3% to 5 % for individuals and 4.8% to 6.4% for corporations.



In remembrance



Oval Myers, Jr.

Long time faculty member Oval Myers Jr. and former EAA officer and co-chair of the golf outings, Oval Myers passed away on January 14 at the age of 76. Oval served as Vice President and President of our Emeritus Group and he and his colleague, Farrel Olsen co-chaired our golf outings for many years. Oval was a faculty member of the Plant, Soil and Agricultural Systems department in the College of Agricultural Sciences who began his career at SIUC in 1968 and retired in 1999. He was considered the father of the department's soybean breeding program which began in the mid 70's. It started when the pathogen that caused the plant disease, Soybean Sudden Death Syndrome, invaded southern Illinois. He and his colleagues began an association with the Illinois Soybean Checkoff Board which has resulted in millions of dollars in grants awarded to the university and numerous critical advances in soybean breeding. In his career he participated and led some agricultural development programs in Brazil, Zambia and Pakistan. Following his retirement he received a Fulbright Fellowship for teaching and research in Thailand. He continued his interest in international agriculture and at the time of his death he was involved in a program with the University of Illinois, New Mexico State and Colorado State in Afghanistan.

Oval was a dedicated supporter of Saluki athletics. At a luncheon group that consisted of former colleagues he often predicted the winner of many upcoming Saluki contests. One enduring characteristic for which he'll be fondly remembered was that he possessed a calm demeanor and was always able to identify the positive aspects in any and all situations.

Chapter Happenings

Blood Drive

The Emeritus and Annuitant Association held a drive in January 2010 on Tuesday the 19th and Wednesday the 20th in the area next door to Blimpies in the Student Center. It was a pretty good drive for we did collect 42 pints which was only 6 pints short of our goal of 48 pints. Hopefully the next drive will be better.

A big THANK YOU to the following people who volunteered to work: Imogene Beckemeyer, Doris Klopp, Duncan and Wilma Lampman, Mary Mantovani, Jackie Mueller and Nancy Pfaff.

The next drive will be in August, 2010. Blood is always in great demand, so let's try to make it a more successful drive than the last one.

-Mary Mantovani

Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee, chaired by Imogene Beckemeyer, recently completed its annual task of selecting the winners of the four \$1,000 EAA scholarships awarded annually. This year the committee reviewed over 75 applications. The names of the students selected for the 2010-11 academic year will be announced at the April 30 General Membership meeting.

Others who served on the committee were: Denny Hays, Duncan Lampman, Inge Rader, Emil Spees, and Roy Weshinsky.

SUAA now on Facebook

SUAA has a new Facebook Fan page and hopes everyone with a Facebook account will become a fan and post comments! Go to Facebook Groups and key in SUAA to find the fan page.

SUAA's website is also undergoing upgrades. New features to come are an option to pay dues on-line through PayPal, a new menu that is easier to read, updates on the upcoming primary, and a new mini briefing. Be sure SUAA has your email address to receive updates directly!

[facebook](#)

Calendar of Events

April 24, 2010 - Civil Service Council flea market - SIU Arena parking lot - 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Raindate: April 25.
April 30, 2010 - Emeritus Faculty Organization & Spring General Membership Meeting - Dunn-Richmond Center.
May 14-15 - SIUC Commencement
June 22 - 23, 2010 - SUAA Regional Meeting - Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center - Springfield, IL
June 14, 2010 - Summer Session Begins
August 23, 2010 - Fall Semester Begins
September 11, 2010 - Trip to Kirkwood, MO. - Stages production of musical State Fair
October 9, 2010 - Homecoming

Chapter communications via Listserv

Because prices for paper and postage continue to increase, our chapter is relying more and more on the ability to communicate with its members via e-mail and the Internet.

The Board of Directors encourages members who use the Internet to sign up for our Listserv so that we may reach you when we are unable to contact you through the mail. Messages are posted to the Listserv regarding SUAA notices pertaining to your pension benefits and legislation that can impact your annuity, campus activities of general interest to our organization and its members, and occasional other items of interest. The Listserv is set up to foster communications among the members and provides a two way channel of interaction.

To have your name placed on the Emeritus and Annuitant Listserv contact Nancy Hartman at nancyhartman@juno.com.

Emeritus Golf News

The Spring 2010 Emeritus and Annuitant Association Golf Scramble will be held on May 3, 2010 at Hickory Ridge Golf Course in Carbondale, Registration is at 8:00 AM and play will begin at 8:30. The fee is \$30.00 per person and includes green fees, cart and lunch. Please bring \$5.00 for prizes. Look for the Flyer and registration.

We wish to express our condolences to the family of Oval Myers on his passing. Oval, his wife Joyce and Farrel Olsen did a great job of organizing the golf outings for a number of years and we hope to continue that fine tradition.

-Keith McQuarrie and Ron Mahoney

Emeritus Faculty Organization Meeting

The Emeritus Faculty Organization will meet on Friday, April 30th, 8:30 to 9:30 am at the Dunn-Richmond Center. Dale Ritzel, Emeritus Professor of Health Education and Recreation will be the guest speaker. Dale will speak on safe driving and other safety issues. All are welcome to attend.

-John Pohlmann

SIUC EAA Board of Directors

The SIUC EAA Board of Directors meet every other month on the second Thursday of the month. Chapter business related to local and state legislative matters regarding pension and benefits is handled as well as planning and organizing local chapter activities. The names of the Board members are listed on the back cover of this newsletter. Please contact any board director if you have questions or need information regarding our organization.

The Emeritus Association Newsletter is published three times a year by the Office of Constituent Relations & Special Events, Southern Illinois University Carbondale.
Editor-in-Chief, Nancy Hartman

Attn: **Emeritus Association Newsletter
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Southern Illinois University Carbondale
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Carbondale, Illinois 62901**

A trip to Stages St. Louis. "Where Musical Theatre Comes Alive!"

EAA plans fall trip to Kirkwood, MO to see the musical *State Fair*



On Saturday, September 11, 2010, The Emeritus and Annuitant Association is sponsoring a trip to see the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic, *State Fair*.

The bus will leave Carbondale, from the south Arena parking lot, at 12 noon for the 4 p.m. matinee performance. Plan for lunch on your own at Amici's Restaurant in Kirkwood prior to the performance. To reserve your ticket for this outing, complete the reservation form on the flyer included in this newsletter. This trip is limited to 30 participants. Cost is \$80 per person.



The playbill for this production follows.

State Fair is based on the screenplay by Oscar Hammerstein II and the novel by Phil Stong. With a soaring score by Rodgers and Hammerstein, *State Fair* takes us back to a simpler time when winning Blue Ribbons for prized boars, serving up mincemeat, and finding true romance

on the midway were annual rites of "Spring Fever."

State Fair invites you to travel with the Frakes as they leave behind the routine of the family farm for three days of adventure at the annual Iowa State Fair. Featuring the lilting melodies of "It's a Grand Night For Singing" and the Academy Award-winning song "It Might As Well Be Spring." *State Fair* is a tuneful treat for the entire family. Step up and get your ticket!

STAGES ST. LOUIS operates year round with a staff of twenty. A full-time seasonal company operates from May to October and presents 124 performances in the 380-seat Robert G. Reim Theatre at the Kirkwood Civic Center. Performers are cast from auditions in both St. Louis and New York. STAGES is the top employer of local union actors and provides more annual workweeks than any other St. Louis theatre company.

McLeod Summer Playhouse

The McLeod Summer Playhouse will hit the boards again this summer beginning the middle of June with two plays alternating in repertoire fashion. The first is *Unnecessary Farce*, a comedy with two cops, three crooks and eight doors. With one comic bit overlapping the next it is "the Marx brothers updated in tempo and relevance to today's world."

The second play is *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. The show's Tony Award winning creative team has created the unlikeliest of hit musicals. It is a hilarious tale of overachievers' angst chronicling the experience of six adolescent outsiders vying for the spelling championship of a lifetime.

Unnecessary Farce plays on Thursday (6/17), Saturday (6/19), Friday (6/25), and Sunday (6/27). *Spelling Bee* plays on Friday (6/18), Sunday (6/20), Thursday ((6/24) and Saturday (6/26).

The summer playhouse musical is *The Drowsy Chaperone*. This 2006 Tony Award winner for Best Book and Score is full of mix-ups, mayhem, and a gay wedding, back when gay meant something different. This delightful show is about an old musical that takes place in the apartment of a musical theater lover. *The Drowsy Chaperone* runs on the Friday, Saturday and Sundays of July 9, 10, and 11, and 16, 17, and 18.

The final show is the All Southern Illinois High School Musical, *The Wizard of Oz*. This Royal Shakespeare version follows closely the classic movie, with all the musical hits we have grown to love. This musical classic for the entire family will play on Thursday through Sunday, July 29 to August 1.

Ticket prices are \$67 for season tickets, \$20 for *Unnecessary Farce*, \$23 for *Spelling Bee*, \$25 for *Drowsy Chaperone*, and \$16 for the *Wizard of Oz*. The box office phone number is 453-3001 and the box office is open from 12 to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday.

Backpacks to scholarships *(Continued from page 2)*

spring are noteworthy. By January most students are veterans and have learned how to make their way about the campus and have become pretty experienced problem solvers.

Many of you know that the funds that are received from the Book Store for this program go into a scholarship fund. The SIUC SUAA awards several scholarships each year and the funds partially come from our Book Store work in August and January. Imogene Beckemeyer leads a committee that reviews the applications and typically these students attend a meeting where they are publicly recognized. The academic and extra-curricular achievements of the students are stellar and their career plans are extraordinary. I have wondered at times what happens to these students as they finish their undergraduate work and move ahead with academics and life.

I agreed to write this piece about scholarship winners and where they had progressed. I was disappointed to learn that this era of tight privacy regulations has limited our contact with winners. However, I learned of one former scholarship winner whose family could be contacted. The parent was most appreciative of the support we had provided and was delighted that retirees continue to support SIUC. I learned this student finished at SIUC with an excellent record and moved along to the University of Kansas. This scholarship winner is progressing toward a master's degree and plans to continue toward the Ph.D. in mathematics. We would welcome any other updates on former scholarship recipients if any readers have had contact with them. Meanwhile, let's plan to continue our work at the Book Store and other avenues where we can raise funds to continue this excellent program!



- Doug Bedient

**MICHAEL D. HANES**

SIUC's own answer to Professor Harold Hill and *The Music Man*, can be none other than Mike Hanes, who has been enthusiastically leading bands on campus since 1965. Hanes, who is now Director of Bands Emeritus at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, retired in 2005 after thirty-eight years as a member of the SIUC music faculty. Now he has added the Emeritus and Annuitant Association to his long list of campus involvement and currently sits on its Board of Directors.

Over the course of his career at SIUC he has served as director of the Marching Salukis (for 30 years) the University Wind Ensemble, the Symphonic Band and University Percussion Ensemble. He was also professor of percussion, and professor of music education, as well as being very active in the School of Music's music theater program, serving for many years as musical director/conductor and co-producer of the McLeod Summer Playhouse. For twelve years he conducted the major opera productions of the Marjorie Lawrence Opera Theater. His campus honors include the Amoco Foundation Outstanding Teacher Award, the Office of Student Affairs Service Award and the College of Communications and Fine Arts Alumni Achievement Award.

Mr. Hanes is now conductor of the John A. Logan College Community Band. He is still active as a guest conductor, clinician and adjudicator, leading junior high and high school festival and honors bands throughout the Midwest. In 2000 he conducted the Southeast Asia Honor Band in Hong Kong, China, and, in 2006 he conducted the Illinois All-State Honors Band in Peoria.

Currently our beloved Marching Salukis are in need of new uniforms and as we all know, our band marches in style. Who to better provide a historical look at those 'style'n' Salukis than Mr. Music Man himself, Mike Hanes.



SIUC's Marching Salukis, have long been known for their unique uniforms – tuxedos and homburgs. Their present uniforms are in their twentieth year of use, the normal life of marching uniforms being six to eight years. The band is seeking new uniforms, but is aware of the traditions associated with their unique look.

The band first received national attention back in 1961 when they introduced “the new concept” to football-band entertainment. Prior to this time, marching bands generally reflected their military heritage, wearing military uniforms and playing mostly military music (marches) or simplified arrangements of popular tunes. The SIU marching band wore maroon military-styled uniforms, complete with brass buttons, white straps and a white cape with an “S” on it.

The director at the time, Donald Canedy could see the growing popularity of jazz and other contemporary popular musical styles and wanted the band to play more of this type of music. The early sixties were time of growth and innovation at SIUC and the idea of changing the band's approach was met with positive support. Canedy felt that, if the band was going to play jazz and contemporary music, they should look like contemporary musicians rather than soldiers. At that time the “uniform” of the dance-band musician was the tuxedo.

Working with the DeMoulin uniform company in Greenville, IL, Canedy developed the idea of the band wearing tuxedos. However, most tuxedos at the time were black, not a very showy color for half-time pageantry. This led to the use of red, black and plaid uniforms, with the higher, brighter-sounding instruments wearing red dinner jackets, the lower, darker-sounding instruments in black tuxes, but with plaid cummerbunds and bow ties for color, and the percussion in red and black plaid jackets. Marching bands traditionally wore some kind of head gear, and Canedy chose the homburg for the band – with the percussion not wearing hats for, what Canedy called, the “All-American boy” look. The homburg became the band's trademark.

In 1961, the band premiered the “new concept” with the tuxedo-style uniforms, and their one-of-a-kind, expanded percussion section “The Rhythm of Wheels” with a wide array of percussion instruments mounted on percussion carts. Their musical programs featured wonderful contemporary musical arrangements by then student-arranger Glen Daum. The band received national attention in the college band world for its unique approach to marching entertainment with magazine and newspaper articles across the country.

Long-time director Mike Hanes took over leadership from Canedy in 1965 and led the band for the next thirty-plus years (with three years away in U.S. Army bands). During Hanes' tenure as director, the band expanded the uniform style to include uniforms that were more appropriately designed for the female band members, but maintained the tuxedo look and red and black color scheme. Those original shawl-collar uniforms were replaced in the late-nineteen seventies

**New look of the sixties.**



Look of the seventies.

by a more contemporary notch-collared dinner jacket with ruffled dickies, but the color scheme and homburgs were retained.

The third-generation of uniforms, purchased in 1990, retained the tuxedo style and returned to the shawl collar, but changed to SIUC's school colors, with white dinner jackets, maroon vests and slacks on all of the wind players, and all-maroon outfits on the percussion and sousaphones.

A unique feature of each



uniform design was that none of the uniforms had any words or logos that identified the band as The Marching Salukis or SIUC's marching band. The band became so well-known for their "look" and approach that audiences identified them from their unique uniforms.



Rendering of new uniform

As mentioned at the beginning of this article, the present uniforms have given twenty years of service and are badly in need of replacement. The present band leadership, Dr. Christopher Morehouse, Director of Bands and Dr. George Brozak, Director of Athletic Bands have undertaken the University Bands Replacement Project. Their goal is to have new uniforms on the Marching Salukis when they enter SIUC's new stadium next fall.

They have received fine support from band alumni and other donors, but are still seeking funds to complete the project. Those interested in donating to the project can find information and a donation form on the web at: music.siu.edu/bands.html. Click "Uniform Design and Donation Form" on that page, or contact: Dr. George Brozak, Director of Athletic Bands Phone: (618) 453-5838 E-mail: gbrozak@siu.edu

Parting shot: That Mess they call Springfield

Bruce Appleby, SUAA Executive Committee

As I write on March 25, I am tempted to say "Don't believe anything you hear out of Springfield and don't trust anyone who has been elected to make decisions. This lack of trust goes for those in both parties."

The Governor's budget has details about our pensions. That p.r. fiasco called the Governor's Budget Address is not related to what we need to know. His budget, on paper, calls for changes in the pension systems. What I conclude (or guess), after reading his budget and after so many emails asking me to contact my representatives that my computer is ready to give it up, is:

1) there will be changes in the medical benefits we receive and how these are paid for.

If you are Medicare eligible, expect to be paying a monthly premium "contribution" which could range from \$4/month to \$50/month (the range depends on who is making the guess). If you are retired and not eligible for Medicare, you could be paying anywhere from \$290/month to \$500/month. All these figures don't include dependents. What is scary about this is that over 4,000 retirees dropped out from dental coverage once they were required to pay \$11 a month for it.

2) I'm sure on this one. The tuition waiver for the children of University employees will not be cut. The proposal to do such did not make it out of committee. Mike Bost, representative from our southern Illinois district, opposed the bill and helped defeat it.

3) The House passed a bill that went to the Senate which would change the pensions for the General Assembly. These changes may be the first move to changing all five of the state employees' pension systems. Highlights of the bill are: retirement age is raised to 67; changes in how years of service and average monthly salary are figured; etc. Most important is that all changes are as they effect new people in the pension system.

4) Referring to #3 above, any changes that are made in the SURS system will mostly be changes to the retirement benefits for new employees. Those of us already retired will see minimal changes, particularly if we're Medicare eligible. That these changes will have a major impact on recruitment of new employees hasn't been a factor in the discussions, as far as I can tell.

A couple of facts that are most telling: 10,469 new bills have been introduced in this session of the legislature. That's a new record. That most of these bills are "shells" (just a title and a number and a sponsor) means that they are mostly there for p.r. purposes. My conclusion on this is that when a candidate for office tells you "I have put forth a bill to _____" react by asking what bills he or she voted for, not those put forth.

At the end of each legislative year, Mike Madigan, Speaker of the House, has a big "required attendance" fundraiser. Traditionally, the legislative session ends in late May. Madigan has scheduled the fund raiser for May 7. They (the legislators) want to get out of Springfield without committing themselves to anything. Expect a 6 month budget to be passed so that this legislature can blame it and pass it on to the next one. They've done it for years. Just look at how they've passed on the bills for the five pension systems to the point where they are over \$100 BILLION in arrears to the systems. It's worked before.

This week, the week of March 22, is when many of the above considerations will be dealt with. Everything I have said above will be validated or—more likely—refuted by the time you read this. If you don't have your email address recorded with the State Universities Annuitants Association (suaa@suaa.org), do so now. The MiniBriefings that our executive director, Linda Brookhart, does when needed are the most concise information available to tell you what is happening or going to happen to our pensions and benefits.



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Membership Matters

Membership is vitally important. Not only do we need to increase our membership among current retirees, we also want to remind our members not on the dues deduction plan through SURS, to renew their membership each year. Each year we lose members because they forget to renew. The easiest way to maintain your membership is by using the SURS dues deductible method. Please encourage your friends who are current employees to join also. Thank you for your help with membership; it is so vital for our continued benefits.



Pansy Jones

Pansy Jones, Membership Chair

Membership in the State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA) is open to

- Retirees from Illinois public universities, community colleges and other SURS agencies
- Spouses and survivors of retirees
- Active academic professionals, administrators, faculty, and all support staff

Membership is held through our local chapter SIUC Emeritus and Annuitant Association. Annual dues are \$31, with \$6 retained by our local chapter.

To join you may either

- Call the SUAA Central Office at toll-free 888-547-8473
- Go to www.suaa.org and click on "Join Now"
- Call Pansy Jones at 684-6981
- Send message to pdjones1960@yahoo.com

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